

New Hampshire State Committee on Aging (SCOA)

May 4, 2015 Meeting Minutes

Attendees: Russ Armstrong, Kathryn Cauble, Candace Cole-McCrea, Richard Crocker, Rep. Susan Emerson, Chuck Engborg, Larry Flint, Mark Frank, Herb Johnson, Joan Shulze

Excused: Sherri Harden, Sheila King, Bob Ritchie

Guests: Michael Cauble, Tracey Tarr, BEAS

Meeting called to order at 10:00 am by Rich Crocker. Attendees introduced themselves.

Motion to approve April 6, 2015 Meeting Minutes. Motion was approved.

State Budget – Rich Crocker:

The Commissioner's budget update web site presents the current House budget showing the following: home delivered meals will have a 50% to 51% cut, Adult in Home care a 52% cut, Information and Referral contacts a 92% cut, Assessment & Council (relating to determining eligibility for services) a 73% cut, Adult Day Care a 52% cut, and Family Care Giver a 89% cut. The Senate has until the end of May to make a final decision on the budget, then it goes on to the Committee of Conference then on to the Governor for final decision by the end of June.

Reimbursements to nursing homes were cut in a number of ways, a 4% cut in year 1 and 2% cut in year 2 of the biennium. The Medicaid Quality Improvement program was reduced by 25%. George Maglarus, County Commissioner sent out a letter to the state legislature on behalf of all the counties, talking about the problem of the County CAP. The impact on County and Private nursing homes is a \$7 million loss in the current budget. Senator Forrester introduced SB 8, to try and remedy this. In addition, there is language in HB2 of the house budget that tries to remedy this also.

New Hampshire Fiscal Policy Institute is looking at other revenue sources as possible. They are promoting different ways of forecasting revenue, and different ways of constructing revenues.

Home Health Agencies successfully advocated 6 or 7 years ago with the Legislature. The effort resulted in legislation requiring DHHS to conduct an analysis and update home care rates on an annual basis. In most of the state budgets since then including this one, that legislation has been suspended. Home Health Agencies accuse the state of continuously failing to follow the requirements of RSA 126:18, and the rule relating to that HEW 553. Home Health agencies are also experiencing a rate cut on the federal level.

Legislation – Chuck Engborg:

HB 151- Establishing committees to studying end of life decisions. It was passed by both houses.

HB 411 – Prohibiting of payment of subminimum wages to persons with disabilities. Laid on the table.

HB 484 – Medication administration by licensed nursing assistants and relative to exemptions from regulation for certain nursing care and attendant care services, Passed by both houses.

SB 7 - Adding duties to the joint health care reform oversight committee. Retained in committee.

SB 49 – Relative to clinical eligibility determination for long-term care. Passed and adopted by both houses.

SB 57 – Establishing a commission to study oversight, regulation, and reporting of patient safety and infectious disease prevention and control issues in health care settings has been passed by both houses.

SB 146 – Relative to accessory dwelling units, in committee until May 28.

SB 187 – Allowing a patient to designate a caregiver upon entry to a medical facility, passed and adopted by both houses.

State Plan on Aging – Tracey Tarr:

Tracey met with Chuck Enborg and Joan Shulze last week to discuss the plans revisions. She will be meeting with different program areas to sort out what the programs would like in the plan.

Medicaid Managed Care Update – Rich Crocker:

DHHS is putting together a 1915B wavier which would allow mandatory enrollment in Medicaid Managed Care. As a reminder you can access all the documentation on Medicaid Managed Care on the DHHS website.

Endowment for Health Initiative – Russ Armstrong

The Core Advisory group is now going to be called the Steering Committee. Currently the Committee is trying to determine how to put the membership together, and establish a baseline for the initiative. An effort is underway which will try to get the Endowment for Health initiative adopted by the business community.

Oral Health – Rich Crocker:

Bob Ritchie has been going to the commission meetings. They are focusing on seniors this month.

Commission to Study Mental Health/RSA 135-C:63-b – Rich Crocker:

This is a Legislative Commission to study mental health implementation in NH. It consists of members of the Senate, the House, community behavioral health, psychiatric society, NAMI, New Futures, and UNH co-op extension. It is an administratively attached agency under RSA 21-D. Recognizing the need for integrated mental health care across all ages, the Commission's study shall include but not be limited to, reviewing all current reports addressing mental health in NH, reviewing other states' reports on the status on mental health in such state, assessing the degree to which lack of resources, facilities, and professional personnel are contributing to the growing emergence of mental health issues in New Hampshire's population, and assessing to what degree current efforts to address mental illness in New Hampshire serves youths, seniors, veterans, and minority populations. The commission may solicit information from any person or entity the commission deems relevant to the commission's objective, the commission shall make every effort to avoid issues specified in the mental health lawsuit settlement agreement in order to allow the mental health settlement to be implemented without hindrance. The State Committee on Aging needs to elect a representative to the committee. The Commission meets once a month. The Commission is chaired by Representative McKay. Representative Susan Emerson was elected by SCOA to be its representative. The Commission shall provide a final report of its findings and recommendations on or before November 1, 2015. In addition to proposals for legislation, the final report shall also include detailed findings and recommendations relative to the needs of

adults who have a mental illness or are in recovery, children with serious emotional disorders, and their families.

Other Cats & Dogs:

The White House Conference on Aging-Regional Meeting/Policy Briefs

As a reminder if anyone is interested, there is a meeting in late May in Boston. They are producing policy papers on Healthy Aging and Long Term Support and Services.

NHPR

On May 5 at 9:00am the Laura Knoy Exchange Program will be broadcasting a discussion on “Aging in Place in New Hampshire”. Steve Norton, New Hampshire Center for Public Policy Studies, Lisa Morris, Lakes Region Partnership for Public Health, Kelly LaFlamme, Endowment for Health and Russ Armstrong, State Committee on Aging and Monadnock at Home will discuss the changes in the senior population and the challenges faced both the State and seniors as they increase in population. This is the first of what is planned to be a series of shows on this topic.

SCOA Membership

Rich has been in touch with Jennifer Kuzma of the Governor’s office to remind the Governor that SCOA has four vacancies. Rich notified the Governor’s office that Larry Flint and Candace Cole-McCrea wanted to be reappointed. Larry and Candace have not heard from the Governor office yet. Tracy emailed Rich the name of a person that is interested in being a member of SCOA, Rich asked Kathryn to contact the person.

What’s Happening in your Region?

Larry Flint - Sullivan County has started meeting every fourth Monday of the month. ServiceLink is helping to coordinate the meetings.

Mark Frank - Office of Energy and Planning are behind in sending out the technical bulletin. Mark offered his help in getting the bulletin out. In Berlin, the Veterans Council is working with the court system for veterans.

Rich Crocker – Belknap County’s Winnepesaukee Public Health Council has an aging and disability sub-committee and one of the things one of their projects is Falls Prevention.

The Long Term Care Ombudsman Darlene Cray is looking for volunteers. People interested should contact her or Chuck Enborg.

Next meeting is June 1, 2015 from 10:00-12:30.